

This week in the Ways and Means Committee I joined members of both parties to pass H.R. 1173, which repeals the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act. As I noted in my [previous e-update](#), the CLASS Act is a new long-term care entitlement program created by President Obama's health care reform, but the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently concluded that it was fundamentally flawed and too costly to implement. It was designed to collect premiums for five years before it would have to start paying claims, which allowed supporters of the health care law to claim that it would reduce the budget deficit in the near term. However, just as the Obama administration's own nonpartisan actuaries had warned months before the law was passed, it proved impossible to structure the program in a way that would cover its future expenses. While HHS has acknowledged that the program cannot be implemented successfully, a court could still order them to attempt to do so as long as the law remains on the books, so Congress needs to act to end this failed experiment once and for all. Ultimately, I believe the false promises of the CLASS Act are another good illustration of why we need to repeal the entire health law and replace it with more substantive reforms that actually reduce the cost of health care.